



*Providing
Coordination
for Child Care
& Early
Childhood
Education*

Constructing Bridges: A Path of Learning Defining the “P” in P-16

Vision: All children flourish, reaching their full potential through the positive engagement of their families and communities.

Definition: A child’s learning begins at birth; therefore, the “P” in P-16 is birth.

Guiding Principles:

- A system of early learning and care recognizing parents (from pregnancy forward) as the child’s first teacher and establishing mutually respectful partnerships with families.
- Learning takes place in a variety of formal and informal settings that are developmentally appropriate and culturally and linguistically supportive.
- Learning opportunities support social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.
- Early learning and care programs are universally available and voluntary and offer families access to comprehensive services, resources and program options responsive to the diverse needs of families and children.
- Children and families experience seamless transitions throughout the P-16 system.
- Children will be assessed to support their learning in a developmentally and culturally appropriate manner.
- Early learning and care programs will design and measure outcomes aligned with state learning requirements where appropriate based on input from key stakeholders and participants.
- Parents, teachers and early learning and care providers regularly share information throughout the P-16 system on the child’s development and education that supports the child’s individualized learning.
- Highly qualified and equitably compensated professionals are integral to the success of each child.
- A system is in place to provide education and training, support and resources for early learning and care professionals.